

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION JUSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 L-03 /029 W  
-----003224 212229Z /14

O 212124Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9702

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 06607

DEPARTMENT PASS JUSTICE FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

EO: 11652 XGDS-1  
TAGS: SNAR, MX  
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - LETTER FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES  
TO ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES A LETTER DATED APRIL 20 ADDRESSED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL. LETTER BEING POUCED TO DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSMITTAL. FREE TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

DEAR MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL:

DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO MEXICO OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THEY EXPLAINED TO US THE EXISTENCE, NATURE AND CONSEQUENCES OF A LAWSUIT FILED BY NORML. (I NOTED THAT THE GROUP OF OFFICIALS DID NOT INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.) HAVING ANALYZED THE BASES OF THE COMPLAINT, WE BELIEVE THAT, FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, IT CANNOT BE RESOLVED IN FAVOR OF NORML SINCE THIS WOULD IMPLY RECOGNITION OF AN ILLICIT ACT, THE USE OF MARIJUANA, A DRUG WHOSE PRODUCTION, TRAFFIC, POSSESSION AND USE IS PROHIBITED BY THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES. INDEPENDENT OF THAT FACT, BASED ON SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS THERE ARE NO CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANT RESIDUAL EFFECTS OF PARAQUAT WHICH CAUSE DAMAGE EITHER TO HEALTH OR TO THE MEXICAN ECOLOGY, THE LATTER IN ANY CASE BEING A MEXICAN PROBLEM.

WE HAVE PROVIDED THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO ALL OF THE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION IT HAS REQUESTED. HOWEVER, SINCE NO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

JUSTICE CAME TO MEXICO, I BELIEVE THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. I DO NOT KNOW IF YOU HAVE ALSO RECEIVED A COPY. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE OR IF YOU WANT ME TO SEND YOU COPIES, INCLUDING THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON WHICH WE BASED OUR DECISION TO EMPLOY THE HERBICIDES THAT WE ARE USING. THIS INFORMATION COULD BE THE BASIS FOR YOUR DEFENSE IN COURT IF YOU WISH.

I DO NOT KNOW AMERICAN PROCEDURE, BUT WHILE WE HAVE PROVIDED ALL THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE EMBASSY FOR THE GROUP FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, I FEEL YOU SHOULD KNOW AND BE AWARE OF THIS SITUATION DIRECTLY FROM US AND, IN CASE YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED COPIES OF THE INFORMATION, WE WILL SEND THEM DIRECTLY IF YOU WISH.

I TAKE THIS OCCASION TO REPEAT THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND PERSONAL ESTEEM.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC. (SIGNED) LIC.  
OSCAR FLORES.

2. COMMENT: ABOVE LETTER IS MOST UNUSUAL AND ALMOST CERTAINLY REFLECTS FLORES/ CONCERN THAT USG VIGOROUSLY DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST NORML LAWSUIT. WE KNOW FROM PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH FLORES THAT HE HAS PERSONALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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READ AND ANALYZED THE NORML COMPLAINT, AND HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO OFFER TO SEND GOM EXPERT WITNESSES TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF USG. AS NOTED IN MEXICO 5490, THIS IS AN UNPRECEDENTED OFFER. LUCEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LITIGATION, DRUG CONTROL, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, HERBICIDES  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NARCOTICS - LETTER FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES TO ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL  
**TAGS:** SNAR, PDIP, MX, US, NORML, (FLORES SANCHES, OSCAR), (BELL, GRIFFIN J)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014